

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 16171 01 OF 02 061115Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 DHA-02 ORM-01 DPW-01 /088 W

----- 096654

R 060925Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9134

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 16171

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: A VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIET-NAM

1. NGUYEN VAN TUY, A VIETNAMESE HOLDING FRENCH CITIZENSHIP, LEFT SAIGON JULY 27 TO RETURN TO PARIS, STOPPING BRIEFLY IN BANGKOK. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY, HE SPOKE EXTENSIVELY WITH COLONEL NGO THAN NGHIA, FORMER BINH THUAN PROVINCE CHIEF, WHO RELAYED TUY'S OBSERVATIONS TO US. WE FIND TUY'S VIEWS QUITE INTERESTING.

2. TUY IS SAID TO HAVE GROWN UP WITH PRG PRESIDENT HUY H TAN PHAT. ANTI-DIEM, TUY FLEW A PLANE OUT OF VIET-NAM INTO CAMBODIA IN 1958. HE ACQUIRED FRENCH CITIZENSHIP AND BECAME A THIRD FORCE FIGURE IN PARIS, OFTEN COOPERATING WITH ANTI-GVN ELEMENTS. PRIOR TO THE FALL OF SAIGON, HE AND OTHERS RETURNED TO VIET-NAM, OSTENSIBLY WITH THE BLESSING OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE IF THERE WAS A ROLE FOR THEM. THEY WERE TRAPPED THERE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 16171 01 OF 02 061115Z

UNTIL TEN DAYS AGO, WHEN THE RGSVN PERMITTED THEM TO DE-

PART BECAUSE OF THEIR FRENCH NATIONALITY.

3. OF GREATEST INTEREST ARE TUY'S OBSERVATIONS ON PERSONALITIES IN SAIGON. HE SAID THE STRONGEST INDIVIDUAL IN THE SOUTH IS UNDOUBTEDLY LAO DONG PARTY POLITBURO MEMBER AND COSVN COMMANDER PHAM HUNG. PHAM HUNG HAS ESTABLISHED HIS OFFICE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BUILDING AND IS CALLING THE SHOTS.

4. TUY NOTED THAT ALL MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND STORES IN GOOD CONDITION (E.G., WEAPONS, VEHICLES, AND EVEN FOOD RATIONS) ARE CURRENTLY MOVING TO THE NORTH, BOTH BY TRUCK AND BY SEA. THIS HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE SAIGON LEADERSHIP. LT. GEN. TRAN VAN TRA IS SAID TO BE IN TROUBLE FOR HIS OPPOSITION TO THIS MOVEMENT; TUY SAID TRA'S ACTIONS ARE NOW UNDER SURVEILLANCE, FURTHER STRENGTHENING PHAM HUNG'S POSITION. SIMILARLY HUYNH TAN PHAT, ALTHOUGH NOT THAT MUCH IN A POSITION OF POWER, ALSO REPORTEDLY TOOK A NEGATIVE STAND ON THE ISSUE, AND HIS STAR IS DEFINITELY NOT ON THE RISE. TUY SAID THIS MATTER HAS INCREASED SOUTH VIETNAMESE SUSPICIONS OF NORTHERN INTENTIONS.

5. IN GENERAL, TUY SAID THAT THINGS ARE BAD IN THE SOUTH. HE SAID THERE IS NOT ENOUGH FOOD OR MONEY, MAKING LIFE DIFFICULT. FORMER GVN OFFICIALS WORKING FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO 3000 PIASTERS PER MONTH IN SALARY AND 18 KILOS OF RICE.

6. TUY SPOKE OF THE RE-EDUCATION SESSIONS TAKING PLACE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THEY ARE WORST FOR THE CHILDREN. THE CHILDREN ARE GROUPED BY AGES, ASKED THEIR RELIGIONS, THEN TOLD TO PRAY AS THEIR RELIGION DICTATES TO ASK FOR CAKE. THEY THEN REPEAT THE EXERCISE, ADDRESSING THEIR PRAYERS THIS TIME TO UNCLE HO. THE CAKE MIRACULOUSLY APPEARS WHILE THEIR EYES ARE CLOSED. (COLONEL NGHIA SAID HANOI USED THE SAME METHOD AT THE TIME OF PARTITION).

7. TUY SAID THERE IS A GENERAL FEAR AMONG FORMER OFFICIALS ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM WHEN THEY REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 16171 01 OF 02 061115Z

WITH RICE AND CLOTHES FOR THEIR RE-EDUCATION SESSIONS. LOW RANKING SOLDIERS ARE RETURNING FROM THEM WITHOUT PROBLEMS, BUT IT IS NOT THE SAME FOR NCOS AND OFFICERS. THEY ARE OFTEN TOLD THEY MUST LEAVE SAIGON FOR THE SESSIONS SO THEY WILL KNOW FOR THEMSELVES THE HARD LIFE WHICH THE VC SOLDIER LIVED PREVIOUSLY. MANY OF THE OFFICERS ARE SIMPLY NOT RETURNING FROM THE SESSIONS, ACCORDING TO TUY. HE RECOUNTED A STORY IN WHICH SOME

400 OFFICERS, ON THEIR WAY TO A RE-EDUCATION COURSE, WERE HAND-CUFFED IN GROUPS OF SIX AND SHOT NOT LONG AGO NEAR TAY NINH. FAMILIES WHO DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE SAIGON MILITARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S OFFICE IN MID-JULY DEHANDING TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OFFICERS WERE THREATENED WITH BEING SHOT, SO THEY DISBURSED. TUY SAID THIS STORY HAS BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE, ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO TRY TO ESCAPE ALL THE MORE, BRIBING VC OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO LEAVE THE AREA OR, IF THEY CAN AFFORD ONE MILLION PIASTERS, THE COUNTRY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 16171 02 OF 02 061206Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 DHA-02 ORM-01 DPW-01 /088 W

----- 097267

R 060925Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9135

INFO COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 2 BANGKOK 16171

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

8. ON THE DISTRICT LEVEL, TUY RECOUNTED THAT PEOPLE ARE KNOWN TO HAVE REPORTED FOR RE-EDUCATION, THEN HAVE BEEN PLACED IN A CAMP UNDER GUARD. THEY ARE TOLD BY AUTHORITIES THAT THIS IS FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION SO THAT "THE PEOPLE" WILL NOT KILL THEM FOR THEIR PREVIOUS MISDEEDS.

9. TUY SAID THAT ALL BUT FORMER VICE PRESIDENT TRAN VAN HUONG HAD HAD TO ATTEND RE-EDUCATION SESSIONS, EVEN DUONG VAN ("BIG") MINH AND SENATOR VU VAN MAU. HUONG WAS EXCLUDED BECAUSE, TO GENERAL SURPRISE, A SON ABOUT

WHOM NO ONE KNEW APPEARED IN AN NVA COLONEL'S UNIFORM.

10. TUY REPORTED THAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DISAPPEARING MYSTERIOUSLY IN SAIGON, LEADING TO A WIDESPREAD AIR OF DEPRESSION. HE SAID THAT LY HONG CHUNG, A WELL-KNOWN SAIGON PHYSICIAN, GAVE FATAL INJECTIONS TO HIS FAMILY AND KILLED HIMSELF IN MID-JULY. HE NOTED THAT THE LATEST SUICIDES HAVE BECOME AN IMPORTANT TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IN SAIGON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 16171 02 OF 02 061206Z

11. MADAME NGO BA THANH HAS REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWN FROM ALL ACTIVITY, DEEPLY DISCOURAGED OVER THE EVOLUTION OF THINGS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM.

12. FINALLY, TUY SAID 12,000 FRENCHMEN STILL IN VIET-NAM ARE LIVING IN DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. THEIR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IS RESTRICTED, AND MA Y ARE IMPOVERISHED. MANY FRENCH THERE HAD BELIEVED THEIR GOVERNMENT WAS "PLAYING THE GAME" CORRECTLY AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS FOR THEM WITH THE PRG. NOW, HE SAYS, THEY ARE DISGUSTED AND ARE READY TO DEPART, WHEN PERMITTED.

13. ACCORDING TO COLONEL NGHIA, TUY WAS QUITE DISCOURAGED ABOUT HIS FORMER COUNTRY. HE APPARENTLY HAD A LONG CONVERSATION WITH HUYNH TAN PHAT, THE GIST OF WHICH HE INTENDS TO RELEASE IN PARIS AND WASHINGTON WHEN HE SPEAKS OUT TO DECRY WHAT IS HAPPENING INSIDE SOUTH VIET-NAM.

14. WE WILL REPORT TUY'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE INTERNAL RESISTANCE IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.  
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SITUATION, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO16171  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750271-0264  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750875/aaaacodz.tel  
**Line Count:** 208  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** A VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIET-NAM  
**TAGS:** PINT, VS, (NGUYEN VAN TUY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006